

HISTORY OF SAINT BONIFACE



St. Boniface Church was established in 1836 and named for the "Apostle of Germany". It is the second oldest Catholic parish in the city of Louisville.

It was staffed by Diocesan clergy until 1849 when Bishop Martin John Spalding asked the Franciscan priests of Cincinnati, Ohio to take responsibility for the parish because of the high influx of German Catholic immigrants into the surrounding neighborhood and the availability of German speaking Franciscan priests. After 148 years, the Archdiocese of Louisville resumed responsibility for the parish.

The present church building, built in the Gothic style, was dedicated in 1900, replacing the Romanesque style church which proved inadequate to meet the needs of the growing parish membership.

As the neighborhood changed over the years and with the building of the Clarksdale complex and the medical complex the focus and mission of St. Boniface has changed but is still grounded in its urban mission to the poor and homeless and characterized by service and advocacy. St. Anthony Soup Kitchen is operated by the parish on our campus. Other outreach services include an Afterschool Program for neighborhood children, A Dare to Care site, a Meals on Wheels Program and an Outreach program for the elderly of the parish, Clarksdale and Dosker Manor. St. Boniface Catholic Church welcomes those who wish to worship with us and be of service to others.